

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 01544 051410Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 041107Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2762

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 1544

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN CASE: TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO LAO FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

REF: VIENTIANE 1467

1. WE BELIEVE THAT PHOUMI'S FEBRUARY 28 REPLY TO THE SECRETARY, AND MORE PARTICULARLY THE ACCOMPANYING FEBRUARY 24 LETTER FROM THE LPF REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE (REFTEL) PRESENT A WEAK LPF POSITION WHICH SHOULD BE ATTACKED. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TEXT BELOW WHICH SECRETARY MIGHT CONSIDER SENDING TO PHOUMI. AMBASSADOR'S REPLY TO PHOUMI WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

EXCELLENCY:

I SHOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 28 AND THE ACCOMPANYING COMMUNICATION DATED FEBRUARY 24 WHICH YOU RECEIVED FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAO PRTRIOTIC FRONT IN VIENTIANE CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CHARLES DEAN, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND HIS AUSTRALIAN COMPANION, NIEL SHARMAN.

TO MY REGRET, I AM OBLIGED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE FEBRUARY 24 COMMUNICATION IN NO SENSE CONSTITUTES AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE CASE OF MESSRS. DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 01544 051410Z

AND SHARMAN.

THE FEBRUARY 24 COMMUNICATIONS DOES NOT ADDRESS THE MASS OF SPECIFIC EVIDENCE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO YOU BY AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE -- EVIDENCE WHICH CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THAT MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN WERE SEIZED BY PERSONNEL OF THE NEO LAO HAK SAT ON THE MEKONG IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND WERE THEREAFTER DETAINED BY THE NEO LAO HAK SAT IN THE AREA OF KHAM KEUT THROUGH AT LEAST MID-DECEMBER.

FURTHERMORE, THE FEBRUARY 24 COMMUNICATION ATTEMPTS TO INJECT A NEW AND SPECIOUS ELEMENT INTO THE SORRY HISTORY OF THIS MATTER: THE SUGGESTION, COMPLETELY UNSUPPORTED BY ANY EVIDENCE, THAT ALLEGED ACTIVITIES BY PATROL BOATS OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT MAY SOMEHOW EXPLAIN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO MEN. THIS IS MANIFESTLY AN ATTEMPT TO OBFUSCATE THE FACTS OF THE CASE AND IS IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PERSONS WHO WERE PRESENT WHEN THESE YOUNG MEN WERE ARRESTED.

INDEED, THE ENTIRE RECORD OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IN THE MATTER OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS REPRESENTS A CONTRADICTION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF DECENTY AND HUMANITARIANISM WHICH THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT CLAIMS TO ESPOUSE. I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, EXCELLENCE, WHY YOU PERSONALLY HAVE NOT INSISTED THAT THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITIES BY RELEASING THE TWO MEN, SINCE YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION CAN ONLY TROUBLE THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION IN WHICH YOU SERVE.

I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO ASK YOU EXCELLENCE TO CONSIDER ONCE AGAIN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER AND TO REQUEST THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ORDER A MEANINGFUL INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE WITH A VIEW TO LOCATING MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN AND EFFECTING THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE).

END OF TEXT.

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 01544 051410Z

CONFIDENTIAL

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